

# Elk Point REVIEW

Bringing You the News since 1984

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Vol. 30 No. 1 • \$1 (GST incl.)

PM40069240 R10645

Seniors, 4-H

Share Christmas fun

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Skates into 2010

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(Vicki Brooker photo)

## Season's best measure up

Taxidermist Dennis Ewanec of Myrnam measures one of the 35 bucks brought in to the Elk Point Oilmen's Association's second annual big bucks competition, held Thursday, Dec. 31 at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre. Check out the winners on Page 8.

## Sea can issue back before town council

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

A controversy that has been underway since midsummer, when Elk Point town council turned down a request to allow the location of a sea can container at the Elk Point Baptist Church for use as a storage building, was back on the agenda at council's final meeting of the year on Dec 14.

Their decision to pass a bylaw that would prohibit the use of the containers in any but the industrial area of town has not pleased everyone.

One resident, who moved in and modified a sea can with the addition of a paint job and a peaked roof, told council that he "wondered what was wrong with the shed at my place. It now looks like a shed, not like a sea can... and there are sheds in town that look 10 times worse. There's no bylaw against them."

Mayor Parrish Tung told the resident that council's "final consensus was that if we let the residents have sea cans, in the future, they could deteriorate and look bad. Yours, there's nothing wrong with, but we cannot make an exception." He noted that the town is well aware that there are sheds in poor condition in town.

Coun. Mark Gormley added that sheds that were in place prior to the passing of the bylaw "are grandfathered," and are unaffected by the law. "Some property owners take will care (of their outbuildings) and some won't," he acknowledged. Both he and Coun. Dick Millar pointed out that controlling the condition of the structures is difficult.

"This was not an easy decision," Mayor Tung said. "We discussed it at four or five meetings, but the vote was passed. As a group, we took this stand."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Looking back at the year's top newsmakers

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

As we enter a new year and a new decade, we look back at the news that made the front page headlines during the past 12 months, in a year that was marked by both progress and controversy.

### January

An issue carried over from 2008 loomed large on our first front page of the year, and would be in our pages many times during the months that followed. A 700-name petition, requesting the County of St. Paul establish a reeve-at-large position, was deemed insufficient under the Municipal Government Act.

Building permits took a dramatic drop in 2008, according to town manager Myron Goyan, dropping from 30 permits, including those for 19 new homes, for construction valued at \$7,247,000 in 2007 to 15 permits, including only three new homes, for a total value of \$2,249,000.

Elk Point Metelytsia Ukrainian Dance Club paid a live-

ly tribute to the Ukrainian pioneers who settled our area at their annual Malanka celebration, with a presentation depicting their arrival in Canada after a long sea voyage, their trip westward by train, the breaking of land and seeding their first crops, and the joyous celebration when those crops were successful.

Chamber of commerce members heaved a collective sigh of relief when profits from the 2007 Christmas Extravaganza were substantially higher than had been forecast.

### February

Leonard Gadowski boosted his Oilmen's Bonspiel record by another notch, winning five out of the past six championships as the last rocks were swept home at the 26th annual spiel, where Ian Huffman was named the 2009 Oilman of the Year.

Alberta's Iron Horse Trail is "knitting our entire region together," Riverland Recreational Trail Society president Sheila Thompson told delegates from communities along

all three branches of the trail who met to determine the next priorities and strategies for trail development.

Elk Point Elementary School students turned out in full force as students in many communities in Alberta took part in Winter Walk Day, an initiative of SHAPE (Safe Healthy Active People Everywhere), which promotes safe and active routes to school across the province.

Elk Point 4-H members took part in the first event to grace the stage of the new Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, as they hosted their annual public speaking competition in the new venue, with senior member Robyn Ockerman, intermediate Daren Tymofichuk, junior Nicole Tymofichuk and presenter Alexis Bristow taking home top honours.

### March

A review of regulations regarding free-standing business signs was underway, with the aim of clarifying the existing bylaw, which town Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich said "has a lot of contradictions in it."

(Continued on Page 6)

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# Council notes

(Continued from Front Page)

## Economic development

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko reported that the budget for the coming year still haven't been prioritized. The town, chamber and golf course will again join forces to advertise in tourist publications, and have been approved for a subsidy on the cost from Travel Alberta.

## MSI applications

Council moved to approve the submission of applications for operating grants under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative program.

## Sponsorship grant

Council discussed their priorities for the provincial sponsorship grant, which provides funding for community projects and does not require matching by the municipality. Substantially more funding is available if three or more municipalities apply together, and they plan to once again to apply in conjunction with the Town and County of St. Paul. They agreed that the water spray park would be their first priority and educational components for the Eco Centre would be second on their list.

## Partnership

Council once again will partner in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and approved a motion to contribute \$500 to the 2010 event.

## 2010 Operating budget

The final council meeting got off to an early start with an hour of deliberations to hammer out the details of the coming year's operating budget. They later approved the budget, ready to start off the new year.

Council's planned Dec. 28 meeting was cancelled.

# Benefit dance raises \$7,000 for three area families

By SHAUNA BURKE  
Review Contributor

St. Paul citizens threw their support behind this year's New Year's Eve Benefit dance, which saw attendance more than double from last year. There were 186 tickets sold compared with 84 last year, according to one of the organizers Jody-Lynn Dunlop, and about \$7,000 was raised for three local families.

"It's heartwarming. It's just heartwarming to see all people that have come out," said Mark Kulczycki, the father of 18-month-old Emily, one of the recipients of the benefit dance. Despite having been through three heart surgeries, the child was active and enjoying the New Year's Eve celebration along with her family.

"Recovery has been very fast for her; she just seems to bounce back. She is such a happy baby," said Emily's mother Molly. She explained that Emily is expected to undergo two more surgeries to replace a damaged valve and repair a hole in her heart.

"I think the event went really, really well," said Denise Petruk, the recipient of last year's New Year's Eve benefit and one of the organizers for this year's event. "What really impressed me is the community support. The silent auction items were really great. Every business we contacted just donated without hesitation."

Germain Brothers Construction, for example, donated \$2,000 to the event, said Petruk. However, she added that many other businesses in both St. Paul and Elk Point also gave generous donations.

Cymer-Ann Poulin and Ron Kulczycki and their two children were also there to celebrate the New Year. Poulin and Kulczycki lost their third child three days before the baby's due date in May and hope to use the money they receive from the benefit to purchase a head stone for the baby's grave.

Janessa Marchuk and Tyrell Trotter are the third family that will benefit from the event. A car accident,

which took the life of Janessa's father, left Tyrell with head injuries that require ongoing treatments in Edmonton.

"Tyrell had a really good time because he was out with his family," said Janessa, adding that they had seven family members that were able to come out and attend the event with them. "We all had a really great time."

The organizing team, composed of Dunlop, Petruk, Tammy Yuschyshyn, Lori Letourneau and Roberta Jones, worked long hours organizing the event, taking time away from their families at a busy time of year, said Dunlop. "I just want to say how much (the organizers) are appreciated," she added.

"Even though we did raise a lot of money, the vision behind it is families helping families," said Dunlop. "It's about community support, (it's) not just financial."

The organizing team is already looking forward to planning next year's celebration.

# Holiday week busy for RCMP

By CST. JOHN SPAANS  
Elk Point RCMP Detachment

On Dec. 22, Elk Point and St. Paul RCMP responded to a domestic violence call in Elk Point. A female victim called 911 then ran into the hallway of an apartment building. The

victim screamed for help from neighbours after the male accused allegedly assaulted their infant child. Neighbours assisted the victim and got the child away from the accused. The accused was restrained until RCMP arrived. The female victim and the child were treated by Elk Point EMS and did not suffer serious injury. The 33-year-old accused has been charged with two counts of assault and possession of marijuana after a quantity of the substance was found inside the residence where the occurrence took place.

## Assistance in Frog Lake

During the early morning hours of Dec. 22, Elk Point RCMP were called to a residence in Frog Lake. The complainant told RCMP that her husband was intoxicated and trying to break into their residence. When members arrived, the male suspect was found to have fled the scene. Investigation found that no assault and no criminal activity actually took place. No charges were laid in this matter.

## Single vehicle collision

With winter in full stride, driving conditions are poor on many of the highways and roadways in the Elk Point RCMP detachment area. Members have responded to a number of collisions where speed and road conditions contributed to vehicles spinning into ditches and striking objects.

On Dec. 22, Elk Point RCMP responded to a single vehicle collision at the intersection of Highway 646 and Highway 893. A southbound Dodge Caliber was traveling too fast when approaching the intersection. The vehicle skidded on the ice and straight through the intersection into the south ditch. The vehicle traveled with enough speed to strike the ditch and launch through a barbed wire fence and into a farmer's field. The vehicle sustained substantial damage to the front and rear end. Speed, ice and poor visibility are to blame for the collision.

## Suspicious person

On Dec. 23 at 11 p.m., Elk Point RCMP received a

call of a male peering into a female's window in Fishing Lake. The male was identified and determined to be on conditions not to communicate with the complainant. The male fled the scene prior to the member's arrival. On Dec. 30, the male was located and arrested in St. Paul. The 25-year-old Fishing Lake male has been charged with failing to comply with his probation conditions.

## Assault

On Dec. 27 at 2:30 a.m., a 911 call was received from a female in Frog Lake advising that a male was throwing chairs and causing problems at the residence. The male suspect threw a chair at a female than pinned her to the ground. When the female was on the ground, the male attempted to punch her. A second female was able to intervene and prevent the male from punching the victim. The 28-year-old male was apprehended and taken before a justice of the peace. The male was released from custody and will be living in Saskatchewan until his next court appearance.

## Impaired driver

At 8 p.m. on Dec. 27, Elk Point RCMP were contacted by an off-duty Cold Lake RCMP member who had spotted an erratic driver on Highway 897 in Frog Lake. Members made patrols of the highway and located the suspect vehicle driving very slowly on the highway. The vehicle was pulled over and the driver identified. The 40-year-old showed gross signs of impairment and was placed under arrest for drinking and driving. The male provided breath samples that indicated a blood alcohol content over twice the legal limit. The Frog Lake male now faces impaired driving charges and driving while disqualified.

## Elk Point Town Council - The Regular Council Meeting

Date of January 11, 2010

# HAS BEEN CHANGED TO:

# January 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

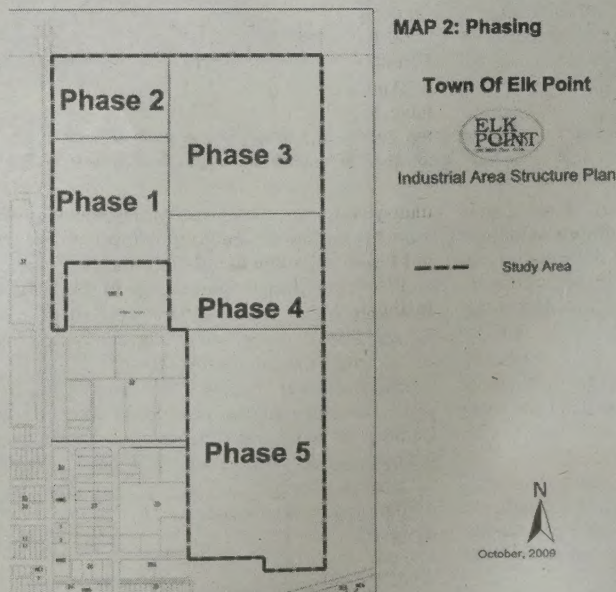


## TOWN OF ELK POINT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Re: Bylaw No. 675/09

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, as amended, the Council of the Town of Elk Point proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 675/09 for the Town to enact:

## - INDUSTRIAL AREA STRUCTURE PLAN



Please TAKE NOTICE that on **NOTE: DATE CHANGE: January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Elk Point Council Chambers located at 4910-50 Avenue, a Public Hearing will be held to hear from anyone who feels they may be affected by the proposed amendment.

Anyone wishing to be heard either directly or on someone else's behalf may make oral representation at the Public Hearing. Written submissions are acceptable and must be delivered prior to the Public Hearing to the Administration Office address indicated above.

At the Public Hearing the Mayor shall direct to hear representation first from the applicant, then from those property owners who claim to be directly affected by the proposed disposal, followed by any other person who wishes to make representation.

Myron Goyan, Manager  
Town of Elk Point  
Box 448, Elk Point, AB., T0A 1A0

Dated at Elk Point, AB., this 18th day of December, 2009.

## MALANKA 2010 "DINE & DANCE"

Saturday, January 16, 2010

ELK POINT ALLIED ARTS CENTRE

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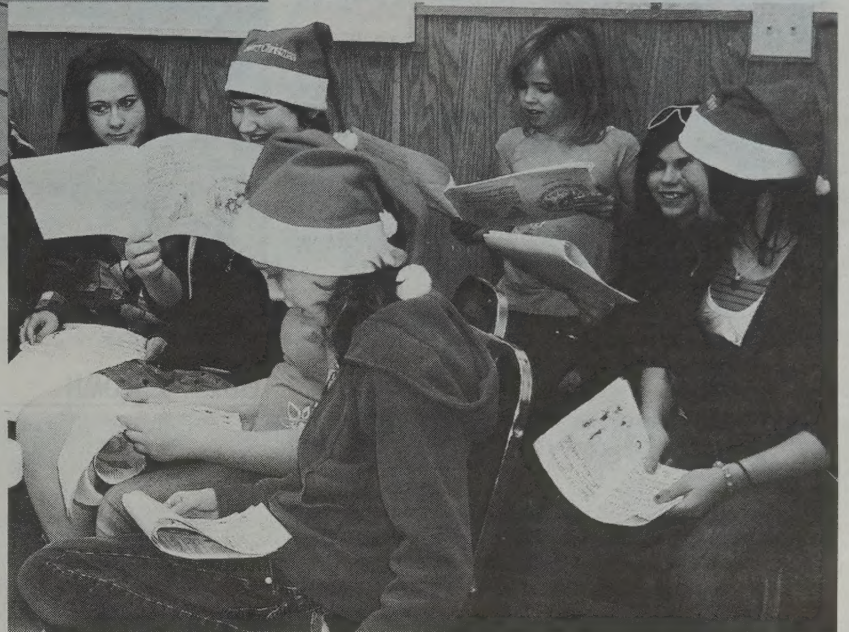
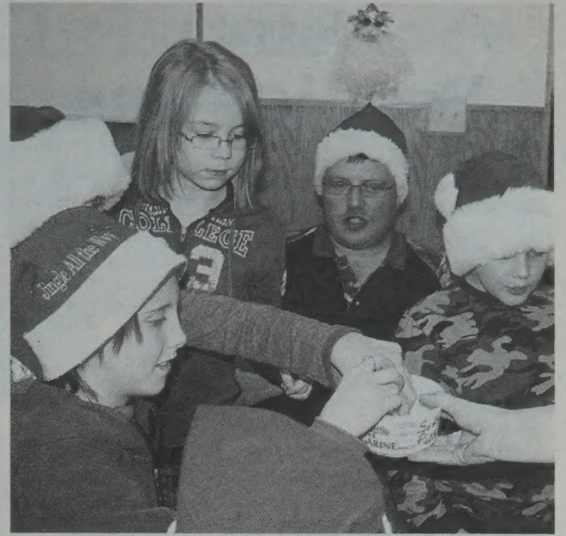




Vicki Brooker photos

## Elk Point 4-H Multi Club shares their Christmas party fun with seniors

Elk Point 4-H Multi Club shared the joy of the Christmas season with Elk Point's seniors when they held their club's Christmas party at the Seniors' Recreation Centre on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The multi-generational gathering allowed the seniors to introduce the 4-Hers and their families to the fine sport of floor curling before both groups sat down to a hearty potluck dinner provided by the 4-H families. After dinner, the song sheets came out and everyone joined in a carol sing (bottom right) before the 4-Hers got down to the serious business of the evening, a gift exchange where members picked numbers to choose their gifts (top right), with all after the first to choose able to pick a gift from the pile or one that someone else had already chosen, with all gifts chosen before any of them were opened.



# Avs ring in 2010 with a road trip

I think 2010 has a nice ring to it; so let's ring in the New Year. They always say, "out with the old, and in with the new" and that's exactly what I always do. New socks and underwear for Christmas, and I don't have enough room for the old holey ones anyway, and you don't want to walk around with your toes sticking out, now do you? Or worse, remember what your mom used to tell you about underwear, just in case you had an accident and had to go to the hospital or something like that, so out it goes.

The Bantam Avalanche packed their bags and filled up the gas tank for a three-hour road trip northeast across the border, to Meadow Lake, Sask. staying overnight at the Super 8 to take on the league leaders in a double header, one game Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday at noon. Saving a pile of money on gas, it makes sense to stay over, play two games and do a little bonding with the team. The Avalanche unfortunately came up short on the score sheet in both games, but still by very respectable scores, especially considering they played the league leaders who have



doug  
**BASSETT**  
Review Sports

been beating up on every other team this year. Dakota "Doc" Amyotte scoring for the Avalanche in the first game, Brett "the Moose" Ockerman assisting, Brayden "Mr. Scrooge" Vinge was minding the cage. On Sunday rookie tender Brandon Bourne got the call to mind the twine. This coming Friday night at 7 p.m. the Avalanche take on St. Paul right here at home in the dome. This is a good rivalry, so come on down and cheer the boys on!

The first game of 2010 at the dome was played on Sunday, when the Novice #1 team hosted a tough team out of Mannville. Goalie Hayden Ludlage, in net for the first two periods, had his work cut out for him. He was peppered with shots, but came up big with some sensational saves, then after two periods the coaching staff switched things up, splitting the goaltending assignment. Hayden went back out on defense for the third period and was a back checking machine, helping his replacement, goalkeeper Parker Allen, who strapped on the big pads and blocker for the first time and played the last 25 minutes

between the pipes. He also did an awesome job and actually stoned the Mannville forwards on a few of their breakaways. Rugged forward Dylan Ference scored for the Novice, and then spent some time in the sin bin as well. Angus McFarlane assisting. Wingers Cyle Graus, Sam Henderson, Colton Van Maarion, and Darian Rybchynsky all doing some mighty fine fore checking, stay-at-home D-women Erin Duffee and Fawn Ockerman were both solid on the blue line stopping the attack.

A big Happy Birthday going out today to "Big Al" Ference.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "I have four guys who don't understand a word I'm saying, ten guys who do but don't do a thing I tell them to do, and another four who aren't good enough to do what I tell them to do." Last week's answer to: "You love hockey more than you love me." - Former New Jersey Devils coach Tom McVie's wife. Tom replied to her, "Yes, that is true, but I love you more than I do baseball."

Please email your sport scoops to sportshound007@hotmail.com

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## EDITORIAL

# Predictions

It's prediction time again.

Last year, we predicted the north subdivision and the new industrial subdivision would proceed at a slow but steady pace, but except for completion of some homes in the former and the beginnings of a structure plan for the industrial subdivision, that pace would make a turtle seem like a race horse in comparison. These things will get there, but they obviously need more time.

We predicted that the EcoCentre and fire hall would bring the railway siding back to life, and the two handsome new structures are well on their way to doing just that.

We predicted that the Arts and Leisure Centre would prove to be a massive people-magnet, and it has done so, from virtually the day it opened. It's a winner!

The oil industry woke up from its winter's nap, and although activity didn't reach a fever pitch, the patch was still going strong for much of the year.

Additional new homes did take the place of decrepit structures in the older areas of town, and are a welcome addition. Hopefully, more will follow.

And as for oil prices and the dollar, both continued to fluctuate, and predicting what will happen with them is iffy at best.

For 2010, we can see the completion of the EcoCentre bringing many a curious visitor into town for a closer look, and the planned water spray park becoming a huge attraction for the youngsters. People are going to ask themselves, "Why didn't we build that years ago?"

The Eco Centre will also spark new enthusiasm in the downtown core, and building owners will be encouraged to spruce up their premises to match. More development at the staging area is also a distinct possibility, and would also help to attract more visitors and encourage them to stay longer and enjoy the community.

We did not predict the new entrance sign at the north end of town, nor could we have dreamed how great it would look, but we now predict that its twin will grace the south entrance some time in 2010. Other signage may also get a much-needed upgrade.

Over all, we predict a good year for Elk Point, with wise decisions on the part of town council and hard work and dedication on the part of our many volunteer groups continuing to make our community "the right place to be."

## WAY BACK WHEN...

# Cup to celebration

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 5 IN...

### 1985

Andy Mikitka's home on Ravine Drive was named the winner of the chamber of commerce residential lighting and decorating contest, with Gary Gulayec second and Nick Bochon third, while first place in the business category went to Capitol Drugs, second to the TD Bank and third to Phil's Allied Hardware. A bouncing baby boy was delivered to Patricia Cuthand of Sputinow just after 4 a.m. on Jan 2 to become Elk Point's New Year's baby.

### 1990

Elk Point's new Community Services Department was ready to go on Jan. 1, with Stephen Montgomery hired as director for a six-month probationary period. Elk Point Pee-wee Wolverines won the Norcen Cup, with goals by Jason Morris, James Makowski, Kyle Sakowsky and Cody Lawrence giving them a 4-1 victory over St. Paul in the final.

### 1995

Quin Darichuk of Pierceland, SK got a very special gift in his stocking: the winning ticket in Elk Point Agricultural Society's Instant Rancher raffle, valued at \$14,400. A nine-page bylaw with two pages of fines of up to \$1,000 for non-compliant dog owners, was approved by town council at their final meeting of 1994.

(Continued on Page 5)



## GUEST COLUMN

# The year ahead

It was only 10 years ago when we heard about the year 2000 problem (also known as the Y2K problem, the millennium bug, the Y2K bug, or simply Y2K), which was a notable problem for both digital (computer-related) and non-digital documentation and data storage situations which resulted from the practice of abbreviating a four-digit year to two digits.

In computer program design, the practice of representing the year with two digits becomes problematic with logical error(s) arising upon "rollover" from x99 to x00. This has caused some date-related processing to operate incorrectly for dates and times on and after January 1, 2000 and on other critical dates which were billed "event horizons". Without corrective action, it was suggested that long-working systems would break down when the "...97, 98, 99, 00..." ascending numbering assumption suddenly became invalid.

Companies and organizations worldwide checked, fixed, and upgraded their computer systems. What ended up happening was the absence of computer failures.

The question then asked: "Was the absence of computer failure the result of the preparation undertaken or was the problem overstated?"

Anyway, we could go on and on about the year 2000, but what about the year 2010? From the Globe Investor, dated Monday, December 14, 2009, it is stated that the domestic economy is expected to grow 2.6 per cent in 2010 and 3.9 per cent the year after that, after shrinking by an estimated

2.5 per cent this year, Royal Bank of Canada said in a report. Stimulus spending, improving credit conditions and consumer spending will be the main drivers of growth, the bank said, with Saskatchewan leading the country's economic expansion next year. "The jobless rate, meantime, will stay high next year, averaging 8.7 per cent and peaking at 8.9 per cent before easing to 7.8 per cent in 2011." Canada's unemployment rate is currently 8.5 per cent. "The past year has been, by far, the toughest since the

early 1990s recession and, in some cases, the early 1980s recession," the bank said. Among provinces, Saskatchewan is likely to tally the biggest growth spurt, with 3.9 per cent growth and a 4.6 per cent increase in 2011, thanks to a pick-up in potash and natural gas markets.

What about Alberta in 2010? RBC Economics says Alberta's economy will improve next year, but substantial growth won't happen until 2011. RBC Chief Economist Craig Wright says the past 11 months have not been kind to Alberta. Wright says the unemployment rate in this province is running at a 13-year high, housing starts fell to their lowest level in more than a decade and that happened while natural gas prices tumbled to near historic lows. All that negative activity sucked the life out of both business and consumer confidence and scared away investors. The country's biggest bank says while Alberta's economy will be among the bottom feeders next year posting growth of 2.4 per cent, things will improve greatly the following year.

By 2011 our province is expected to be only second to Saskatchewan, posting growth of 4.4 per cent a half a point better than the national average. RBC believes Alberta was one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to be affected by the recession and that's why we will be one of the last to emerge from the economic downturn.

Even though predictions seem to be a big discussion matter in each 10-year period, what we have learned is that we will live through it. So happy 2010 everyone!



deanna  
**EASTHOPE**  
from the FCSS desk

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

# ELK POINT REVIEW

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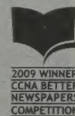
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# Big gift under Palliative Care Christmas tree

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

Elk Point Palliative Care Association was one of five community groups to receive sizeable \$11,178.40 donations of from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. at a pre-Christmas gathering at CNRL's Ardmore training centre.

The association was extremely pleased to be chosen as one of the groups to receive the support, which came from fundraising activities involving the company's employees, service providers and contractors, with the company matching the raised funds dollar for dollar, for a massive total of \$55,892. Ashmont Schools Breakfast Program, St. Therese Health Centre in St. Paul, St. Paul Soccer Association and Iron River School also received the big cheques.

One of the CNRL fundraisers took the form of a dine, dance and silent auction in Bonnyville on Oct. 23, and Palliative Care Association member Sandra Lorensen said the company "picked five organizations and asked them for volunteers. Four of us went and sold 50/50 tickets. By the end of the evening, our group all agreed that it was fun to be able to help out. We all really enjoyed the event."

In accepting the cheque, Lorensen explained that palliative care is the care given to an individual during their last days to ensure their comfort.

"In Elk Point, our palliative care room is actually two rooms. One is for the patient, where the individual receives nursing and family care, and the other room is set up for the comfort and convenience of family or friends. It is equipped with comfortable chairs, a hide-a-bed, table and chairs, and all the necessities so family or friends may stay with their loved one on a 24-hour basis. We are currently in the process of setting up a second room, because palliative care is an ongoing need in our community."



Sharing their joy over the huge \$11,178.40 gift from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. were Palliative Care Association members (left to right) Lucie Krankowsky, Pam Ballas, Fern Sinclair, Paulette Levasseur, Lucille Smith, Mary Bezpalko, Sandra Lorensen, Theresa McNamara, Donna Fedorus, Jean McGinnis, Marguerite Friesen and Gayle Leaf.

## Memories are made of this....



## Way Back When....

(Continued from Page 4)

2000

Elk Point ushered in 2000 with a family-style celebration that included everything from horse-drawn wagon rides through gently falling snow, old-time music by Marge Heffernan and Dolly and Jos Hughes (who brought along their dancing sheepdog) and entertainment by Popcorn the Clown, all topped off with a dazzling fireworks display.

2005

Mayor Parrish Tung pledged the town's special care for seniors at council's final meeting of 2004, suggesting a registry of seniors living in their own homes be compiled so volunteers could help out with tasks such as snow shoveling, or even just a friendly phone call. County Reeve Robert Bouchard acknowledged that the BSE crisis was still uppermost in the minds of the rural population, with no resumption of trade on the horizon.

The past 12 months saw entertainment take many forms in and around our community. Above, in a scene from Elk Point Community Choir's dinner theatre presentation, "Charley's Aunt," the aunt in question tells her nephew's sweetheart a tale of long-lost love. At top right, a saddle bronc horse takes its rider on a high-flying leap at Stoney Lake Stampede. At left, three young ladies show off their new looks, from the face painting booth at F. G. Miller High School's penny carnival.

Vicki Brooker photos





# Looking back at 2009's headline news

(Continued from Front Page)

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce finally had a full roster of executive, for the first time in over a year, when Debra McQuinn agreed to take on the position of treasurer, to the relief of Lesia Porcina, who had filled that role on a temporary basis for the entire previous year, along with her position of vice-president.

The Town of Elk Point showcased upcoming projects, ranging from planned water line upgrades and extensions to the route of a possible 24.7 water supply line, at a joint open house and open council meeting at the Arts and Leisure Centre, with members of the Regional Allied Arts Society on hand to lead visitors on tours of the new facility.

Girls ruled at F. G. Miller High School junior high science fair, when nine teams of young ladies went home with all the hardware after judges toured close to 50 experiments, ranging from a lemon-powered light bulb to a scale model suspension bridge.

Elk Point volunteer firefighters proved bald was beautiful, when they went under the clippers to raise funds for four-year-old cancer victim Abby Rybchinsky, with some firefighters also taking part in an auction of slaves and donated items to help the family.

## April

Town council debated priorities for the \$4.4 to \$4.7 million Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding they expected to receive, with water and infrastructure improvements at the top of their list.

A planning session in September 2008 allowed town council to give ratepayers a glimpse of the community five years into the future, as "a proud, vibrant and environmentally-friendly community enjoying the benefits of a diversified economy."

"An unbelievable number of plans have gone out," town manager Myron Goyan told council the night before tenders were to be opened for both the new fire hall and the EcoCentre.

Grade 10 students at F. G. Miller High School faced hard facts at the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevention of Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth) Program at Elk Point Health Care Centre, aimed at preventing further tragic deaths of FGM students, and a legacy to the student union's representative on the Community Advisory Policing Committee, Katja Brand, who had urged that the program be carried out, only hours before she died in a vehicle crash.

A dinner, Brett Kissel concert, silent auction and live auction featuring Danny Hooper was declared a huge success by the chamber of commerce, who used the event as a fundraiser for the EcoCentre.

## May

Elk Point Health Care Centre announced that they would be expanding their services, with Dr. Drew Ramful and Dr. Ayobami Oyebo jointly announcing the opening of a Well Women's Clinic on a weekly basis.

Spring cleaning was underway across

the area, with 4-H and church groups cleaning ditches along secondary highways, an ambitious group of volunteers cleaning up the downtown area and the Elks Lodge giving their Kehewin Lake campground a going-over.

Elk Point Community Choir took to the stage of their new home in the Arts and Leisure Centre for the first time as they presented their 19th annual Spring Concert of memorable melodies.

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce approved four tenders totaling \$221,882.22 for construction of the Visitor Information EcoCentre, with the total cost of the project estimated by project manager Bernie Genereux to be around \$346,000.

Sod was turned for both the EcoCentre and the new fire hall. Minister of Municipal Affairs Ray Danyluk joined Mayor Parrish Tung and chamber vice-president Lesia Porcina for the official start on the EcoCentre, and with Mayor Tung and County of St. Paul Reeve Robert Bouchard on the fire hall kick-off. The province, town and county cooperated to purchase a wheelchair accessible van for local residents.

Late Superintendent of Schools Doug Yeo was remembered with a moment of silence at the colourful St. Paul Education Regional Division's 2009 powwow, held at Frog Lake Powwow Grounds.

## June

Darren Tymofichuk showed the grand champion and Alanna Ockerman the reserve champion steer at Elk Point 4-H Multi Club achievement day, which also featured displays by horse, dog, small motors and craft project members.

Elk Point Oilmen's Association celebrated their 25th anniversary with an afternoon of golf and an evening banquet, with a number of members from the early days coming back to Elk Point for the occasion.

Adventures and challenges faced participants in the second annual Riverland Adventure Challenge, which involved canoeing, a cross-country run and cycling.

Main Street was the gallery for Elk Point Auto Club's Show and Shine, with no less than 45 vehicles on display.

Lynette Paul, Brandon Stanley and Raylynn Fisher made up Heinsburg's Class of 2009, who celebrated their accomplishments with friends and family.

Elk Point celebrated a century of postal service, with numerous past employees joining the present staff for the occasion.

Elk Point Order of the Royal Purple made a reluctant decision to relinquish their charter after 48 years as a lodge, with 20 members gathering the next evening for one final dinner where they reminisced over the good times they had enjoyed together.

Every player was a winner at the Lakeland Rookie Baseball league windup, hosted by the Elk Point Rookie team.

F. G. Miller's Class of 2009 said farewell to their high school years with gala ceremonies at the Arts and Leisure Centre, the

first time a graduating class has held their ceremonies anywhere but at the school. Nicole Kalynchuk was the valedictorian, and was also the recipient of numerous awards recognizing her scholastic ability.

## July

Canada Day in Elk Point was a big hit, beginning to end, with fun, food and entertainment for all, with the annual strength challenge, farm survival race and Canada Day Idol talent show adding a competitive edge to the lineup.

The sun that baked Canada Day spectators continued to shine for the Stoney Lake Stampede, where good crowds enjoyed the thrills and spills of the 47th annual event.

The CFB Cold Lake fighter jet that streaked above Main Street just prior to the July 1 parade was a huge hit with the Canada Day committee, when they gathered for one last time to critique the event.

The unveiling of a memorial to those who lived and died at the Fort George and Buckingham House fur trade posts was a special addition to 2009 Saskatoon Festival events, with a number of descendants of the fur traders on hand for the occasion.

One of the sports highlights of the year came in late July, when the Elk Point Sox baseball team won Tier II provincial gold in Rocky Mountain House with a 10-5 victory over Sherwood Park.

## August

Town council met with Elk Point RCMP's new detachment commander, Sergeant Brad Lazicki, who was born and raised in the community and who served for 12 years with the RCMP in Vernon, Lumby, Chilliwack and Vancouver before returning to his home community.

A weekend of hard work saw a gigantic array of poles, plastic and pieces hard and small turned into a state-of-the-art playground at Elk Point Elementary School, thanks to the dedicated efforts of about 20 hardworking volunteers.

Delores Mohyluk won her second grand aggregate award in a row at Elk Point Agricultural Society's Horticultural and Craft Show and Quilt Exhibition, with Millie Orr second and Misty Smereka winning both prizes in the quilt show.

Tyson Stafford won the 26th annual Oilmen's Golf Tournament, edging out last year's winner, Norm Quinney III.

Derwent area resident Don Gulayec lost a \$2.8 million hog operation to a massive fire.

Heinsburg Community Club marked 50 years of incorporation, with four founding members, Alice Gregor, Iryne Buck, Colleen and Vernon 'Babe' Sharkey, honoured at the gala event.

## September

An excellent crowd enjoyed the music of close to 40 performers at the annual Forts des Prairies Jamboree at Fort George and Buckingham House Historic Site.

Elk Point cowboy Charlie Young was named the Lakeland Rodeo Association Cowboy of the Year during opening cere-

monies for LRA Showdown 2009 finals.

Construction was underway at the Northern Lights Library System headquarters, with a four-bay garage taking the place of the former entry and an addition of a 2,500 square foot addition going up on the north side as part of a \$2.3 million upgrade to the facility, but construction did not disrupt the 17th and largest-ever Northern Lights annual conference, "Libraries: A Place to Grow."

Eighty-six-year-old great-grandmother Peggy Maas raised an award-winning \$1,540 for local and international charities with her participation in the National Grandparents Day walk.

A regional water distribution system with a pipeline connecting Elk Point to the St. Paul water treatment plant was seen as a benefit by both town and county residents who attended an open house to outline the findings of the St. Paul Regional Water Feasibility Study.

Signage regulations came under scrutiny by town council as they planned an overhaul of the existing bylaw.

Elementary School students kept Terry Fox's dream alive with their annual run, led by cancer survivors Kaylee Poitras and Clarissa Gusnowski with Canadian flags.

## October

Alyxandra Aarbo was named the best all-around student at F. G. Miller High School's awards night.

Town council agreed to join the town and county of St. Paul in a regional water system.

Concerns that a web camera capturing a bird's-eye view of Elk Point could raise privacy issues were taken to both chamber and town council meetings.

Debate continued on the use of sea can containers for storage structures, with two local residents and a Baptist Church representative expressing their views to council.

County residents voted "yes" to an elected reeve by a slim 69-vote margin, with 37 per cent of the 4,283 eligible ratepayers casting their votes.

## November

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko returned from the Alberta Visitor Information Providers' and Tourism Industry of Alberta conferences filled with enthusiasm for the role of Elk Point's new visitor information centre in the community.

Immunization against the H1N1 virus was underway, with recipients divided into priority groups.

Grade 12 groups led a touching ceremony at F. G. Miller's Remembrance Day observances.

The solar panels went up outside, but the inside finishing of the Eco Centre had to wait, due to the belated arrival of the elevator which would provide access to the upper and lower floors for those unable to use stairs.

Extravaganza put Elk Point in a festive mood and kicked off the holiday season.

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**Elk Point Review - 724-4087**





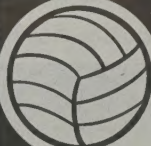
Vicki Brooker s photos

## Big bucks on display

Some of the area's most magnificent bucks from past hunting seasons (above) vied for attention with the cream of the current crop at Elk Point Oilmen's Association's second annual big buck contest, held this year for the first time at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre. The antler measuring took place on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 31, and was followed by the Oilmen's first-ever New Year's Eve dance.



Proud hunters who displayed the award-winning racks were, left to right, Jim Bodnar, whose winning mule deer measured 170, youth whitetail winner Ty Johre with a head measuring 167, and adult whitetail winner Brant Evans, with a rack measuring 162 6/8. A total of 35 heads were measured by taxidermist Dennis Ewanec. Numerous door prizes went home with lucky participants, with Jamie McRae winning a .22 rifle, Orville Lovell a muzzle loader, Brett Ockerman a game trail camera and Melanie Martin a deer head mount.



**St. Paul  
Mixed Volleyball  
OPEN  
TOURNAMENT**

**January 23 & 24, 2010**

Teams must have minimum 3 girls

**TOTAL PRIZE PAYOUT!**

Registration Fee - \$100.00

**Phone Melissa at  
780-645-6866**

**Registration Deadline:  
January 20, 2010**



## Christmas magic

St. Paul Journal editor Janani Whitfield captured this enchanting view of Jack and Leona Bretzer's home and yard in Elk Point, decked out in lights for the Christmas holidays and one of several lit-up spectacles in the area.

Craig's

Winter

Vermilion  
780-853-5895

CLEARANCE

*Yes ... see clothing and footwear  
for cold weather and all other occasions*

**Discounted**

30% 40%

50% 60%